

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A developing unit for developing a latent image formed on an image carrier with a developing liquid ~~eonsisting of~~ including a carrier liquid and a developing substance, said developing unit comprising:

a developing roller including a roller portion and configured to be rotatable while carrying the developing liquid on said roller portion; and

~~voltage applying~~ means for applying a voltage to said roller portion to thereby form an electric field for development between said roller portion and the image carrier, whereby the developing liquid deposited on said roller portion is transferred to [[a]] the latent image formed on said image carrier[[;]],

wherein said roller portion has a volume resistivity ranging from $0 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$ to $10^7 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$.

Claim 2 (original): A developing unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein said roller portion and the image carrier contacting each other form a nip therebetween, and wherein said roller portion has a hardness of 30° or below in JIS-A scale or 60° or below in Asker-C scale.

Claim 3 (currently amended): [[In a]] A developing unit including for developing a latent image formed on an image carrier by depositing a developing liquid including a carrier liquid and a developing substance on said latent image, comprising:

a developing roller, ~~which includes~~ including a roller portion ~~eontacting~~ and configured to contact said image carrier and to be rotatable while carrying [[a]] said developing liquid ~~eonsisting of a carrier liquid and a developing substance~~ thereon, for

~~developing a latent image formed on said image carrier by depositing said developing liquid on said latent image,~~

wherein said roller portion has a volume resistivity ranging from 0 Ω·cm to 10⁷ Ω·cm and a ten-point mean surface roughness of 3 μm or less.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A developing device unit as claimed in claim 3, wherein said roller portion and said image carrier contacting each other forms a nip therebetween, and wherein said roller portion has a hardness of 30° or below in JIS-A scale or 60° or below in Asker-C scale.

Claim 5 (currently amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image carrier ~~for carrying~~ configured to carry a latent image thereon;
a developing unit ~~for developing~~ configured to develop the latent image by depositing a developing liquid, ~~which consists of~~ including a carrier liquid and a developing substance[[,]]; on said latent image;
a developing roller including a roller portion and configured to be rotatable while carrying the developing liquid on said roller portion; and
~~voltage applying~~ means for applying a voltage to said roller portion to thereby form an electric field for development between said roller portion and said image carrier, whereby the developing liquid is transferred from said roller portion to the latent image formed on said image carrier[;].

wherein said roller portion has a volume resistivity ranging from 0 Ω·cm to 10⁷ Ω·cm.

Claim 6 (currently amended): ~~A developing unit~~ An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said roller portion and the image carrier contacting each other

form a nip therebetween, and wherein said roller portion has a hardness of 30° or below in JIS-A scale or 60° or below in Asker-C scale.

Claim 7 (currently amended): ~~A developing unit~~ An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said image carrier has a surface formed of a-Si.

Claim 8 (currently amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image carrier ~~for carrying~~ configured to carry a latent image thereon; and
a developing unit including a developing roller and configured to develop the latent image formed on said image carrier by depositing a developing liquid including a carrier liquid and a developing substance on said latent image, which includes said developing roller including a roller portion contacting [[an]] said image carrier and configured to be rotatable while carrying [[a]] said developing liquid consisting of a carrier liquid and a developing substance thereon, for developing a latent image formed on said image carrier by depositing said developing liquid on said latent image;

wherein said roller portion has a volume resistivity ranging from 0 Ω·cm to 10⁷ Ω·cm and a ten-point mean surface roughness of 3 μm or less.

Claim 9 (currently amended): ~~A developing unit~~ An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein said roller portion and the image carrier contacting each other form a nip therebetween, and wherein said roller portion has a hardness of 30° or below in JIS-A scale or 60° or below in Asker-C scale.

Claim 10 (currently amended): ~~A developing unit~~ An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein said image carrier has a surface formed of a-Si.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A developing unit for developing a latent image formed on an image carrier with a developing liquid ~~consisting of~~ including a carrier liquid and a developing substance, said developing unit comprising:

a developing roller including a roller portion and configured to rotate while carrying the developing liquid on said roller portion; and

a voltage applying device configured to apply a voltage to said roller portion to thereby form an electric field for development between said roller portion and the image carrier, whereby the developing liquid deposited on said roller portion is transferred to [[a]] the latent image formed on said image carrier[[],],

wherein said roller portion has a volume resistivity ranging from 0 Ω·cm to 10^7 Ω·cm.

Claim 12 (original): A developing unit as claimed in claim 11, wherein said roller portion and the image carrier contacting each other form a nip therebetween, and wherein said roller portion has a hardness of 30° or below in JIS-A scale or 60° or below in Asker-C scale.

Claim 13 (currently amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image carrier configured to carry a latent image thereon;
a developing unit configured to develop the latent image by depositing a developing liquid, ~~which consists of~~ including a carrier liquid and a developing substance[[],] on said latent image;

a developing roller including a roller portion and configured to rotate while carrying the developing liquid on said roller portion; and

a voltage applying device configured to apply a voltage to said roller portion to thereby form an electric field for development between said roller portion and said

image carrier, whereby the developing liquid is transferred from said roller portion to the latent image formed on said image carrier[[],],

wherein said roller portion has a volume resistivity ranging from $0 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$ to $10^7 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$.

Claim 14 (currently amended): ~~A developing unit~~ An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein said roller portion and the image carrier contacting each other form a nip therebetween, and wherein said roller portion has a hardness of 30° or below in JIS-A scale or 60° or below in Asker-C scale.

Claim 15 (currently amended): ~~A developing unit~~ An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein said image carrier has a surface formed of a-Si.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A method for developing a latent image formed on an image carrier, comprising:

providing a developing liquid including a carrier liquid and a developing substance;

providing a developing roller including a roller portion having a volume resistivity ranging from $0 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$ to $10^7 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$, said developing roller configured to rotate while carrying said developing liquid on said roller portion;

applying said developing liquid on said roller portion;

applying a voltage to said roller portion;

forming an electric field for development between said roller portion and the image carrier; and

transferring said developing liquid deposited on said roller portion to the latent image formed on the image carrier.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method for developing a latent image as claimed in claim 16, wherein the forming further comprises forming the electric field at a nip formed between the roller portion and the image carrier.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The method for developing a latent image as claimed in claim 16, wherein the providing a developing roller further comprises providing the roller portion having a hardness of 30° or below in JIS-A scale or 60° or below in Asker-C scale.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The method for developing a latent image as claimed in claim 17, wherein the providing a developing roller further comprises providing the roller portion having a hardness of 30° or below in JIS-A scale or 60° or below in Asker-C scale.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A method for developing a latent image formed on an image carrier, comprising:

providing a developing liquid including a carrier liquid and a developing substance;
providing a developing roller including a roller portion having a volume resistivity ranging from 0 Ω·cm to 10⁷ Ω·cm and a ten-point mean surface roughness of 3 μm or less, said developing roller configured to rotate while carrying said developing liquid on said roller portion;

applying said developing liquid on said roller portion; and
transferring said developing liquid deposited on said roller portion to the latent image formed on said image carrier.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The method for developing a latent image as claimed in claim 20, further comprising forming a nip between the roller portion and the image carrier.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The method for developing a latent image as claimed in claim 20, wherein the providing a developing roller further comprises providing the roller portion having a hardness of 30° or below in JIS-A scale or 60° or below in Asker-C scale.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The method for developing a latent image as claimed in claim 21, wherein the providing a developing roller further comprises providing the roller portion having a hardness of 30° or below in JIS-A scale or 60° or below in Asker-C scale.

Claim 24 (previously presented): A method for developing a latent image, comprising:

providing an image carrier having the latent image formed thereon;

providing a developing unit configured to deposit a developing liquid including a carrier liquid and a developing substance on the latent image;

providing a developing roller including a roller portion having a volume resistivity ranging from $0 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$ to $10^7 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$, said developing roller configured to rotate while carrying said developing liquid on said roller portion;

applying said developing liquid on said roller portion;

applying a voltage to said roller portion;

forming an electric field for development between said roller portion and the image carrier; and

transferring said developing liquid deposited on said roller portion to the latent image formed on the image carrier.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The method for developing a latent image as claimed in claim 24, wherein the forming further comprises forming the electric field at a nip formed between the roller portion and the image carrier.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The method for developing a latent image as claimed in claim 24, wherein the providing a developing roller further comprises providing the roller portion having a hardness of 30° or below in JIS-A scale or 60° or below in Asker-C scale.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The method for developing a latent image as claimed in claim 25, wherein the providing a developing roller further comprises providing the roller portion having a hardness of 30° or below in JIS-A scale or 60° or below in Asker-C scale.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The method for developing a latent image as claimed in claim 24, wherein the providing an image carrier further comprises providing the image carrier having a surface thereof formed of a-Si.

Claim 29 (currently amended): A method for developing a latent image, comprising: providing an image carrier having the latent image formed thereon;

providing a developing unit including a developing roller including a roller portion and a developing liquid including a carrier liquid and a developing substance, said roller portion having a volume resistivity ranging from 0 Ω·cm to 10⁷ Ω·cm and a ten-point mean surface roughness of 3 μm or less and said developing roller configured to rotate while carrying said developing liquid on said roller portion;

applying said developing liquid on said roller portion; and

transferring said developing liquid deposited on said roller portion to the latent image formed on said image carrier.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The method for developing a latent image as claimed in claim 29, further comprising forming a nip between the roller portion and the image carrier.

Claim 31 (currently amended): The method for developing a latent image as claimed in claim 29, wherein the providing a developing ~~roller~~ unit further comprises providing the roller portion having a hardness of 30° or below in JIS-A scale or 60° or below in Asker-C scale.

Claim 32 (currently amended): The method for developing a latent image as claimed in claim 30, wherein the providing a developing ~~roller~~ unit further comprises providing the roller portion having a hardness of 30° or below in JIS-A scale or 60° or below in Asker-C scale.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The method for developing a latent image as claimed in Claim 29, wherein the providing an image carrier further comprises providing the image carrier having a surface thereof formed of a-Si.